

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN J. SOLARZ

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, next week, one of our most respected former colleagues, Stephen J. Solarz, will receive the President's Award from the International Crisis Group for his role in the creation of that highly respected organization and his other vital contributions to international public policy. This award is richly deserved, and calls to attention the accomplishments of this remarkable public servant.

His career in public office—which included 6 years of service in the New York State Assembly and 18 years representing Brooklyn's 13th district in this chamber—was characterized by tireless advocacy, unyielding resolve, historic vision, and a deep sense of civic duty.

His career was marked by exceptionally strong service in the international arena. Mr. Solarz served for 18 years on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, including service as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Africa. His record of achievement mirrors the historic and positive changes that occurred in the world during that period. A champion of human rights and democracy, his name figures prominently in the history of South Africa for his efforts to help end apartheid and build a non-racial democracy; in the Philippines for his tireless work in supporting democratic transformation and good governance; and in Cambodia for his public and private initiatives to help build a sustainable peace and national reconciliation in the wake of tragic mass killings. His vision in promoting democratization and European integration of the nations of Central and Eastern Europe following the fall of the Berlin Wall was essential in promoting peace and stability throughout the European continent.

His deep-seated resolve to contribute to international peace and justice did not cease after he retired from Congress in 1993. Mr. Solarz then served President Clinton as special envoy to Cambodia and as Chair to the Board of the Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund. He has stayed active since then, contributing frequently to the public discourse on international events through his writings and teachings.

Mr. Solarz also played a vital role in the creation and early leadership of the International Crisis Group, which has emerged as a respected conflict prevention and resolution organization. As part of a group of prominent international citizens and foreign policy specialists who were appalled by the international community's failure to respond to crises of the mid-1990s in Somalia, Bosnia, and Rwanda, Mr. Solarz recognized the need for an organization, wholly independent of any government that would help governments, international organizations, and the world community to prevent, contain, and resolve deadly conflict. In

the early stages of its formation, Mr. Solarz traveled to two dozen countries to discuss the proposed organization, garner support, and raise funds. The vision of that group was realized, and Mr. Solarz went on to serve first as the organization's first vice chairman and now serves on its board of trustees.

It is with great pride and admiration that I join the International Crisis Group in celebrating this great American and distinguished veteran of the House of Representatives. I thank his wife of 38 years, Nina Koldin, and his two children for sharing their husband and father with us. I am proud to pay tribute to Stephen Solarz for his contributions to the people of New York, the United States, and the entire world.

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the upcoming 2007 fiscal year supplemental appropriations bill.

Much of the debate on this bill has focused, quite rightly, on the provisions that codify President Bush's benchmarks for Iraq into law. That is an important subject that I plan to discuss in depth later this week.

But today I wish to focus on another element of this bill, one that is of vital importance to the farmers and ranchers of the Second District of Kansas.

America's agricultural industry is in the midst of a calamity. Fully 70 percent of U.S. counties were declared disaster areas by the Department of Agriculture in 2006. Believe it or not, this was an improvement from 2005, when 80 percent of all counties were declared disasters. In my home state of Kansas, every single county is suffering from disaster conditions.

It is hard to express the frustration of the farmers I speak to in my district. Many have worked the same acreage for decades, and they feel a profound connection to their land. They trust that, if they treat their land right, if they plow its soil and plant it carefully and tend it for the many months before harvest, it will reward them with enough crops to earn a living.

But lately, as disaster conditions have stretched out into every corner of Kansas, the land has betrayed our farmers and ranchers. William Norman, Jr., a farmer from Leavenworth County, is fighting to make ends meet now that his corn production has plummeted by two-thirds. Frances Ford, a rancher in Coffey County, is struggling to feed her cattle off of only half of her ordinary hay yield.

These are good, hardworking people who put food on America's plates every single day. But their land has betrayed them—and sadly, Congress has betrayed them, too.

Despite the magnitude of the current agricultural catastrophe, Congress has failed to provide sufficient agricultural assistance. We have abandoned our farmers and ranchers to a massive and ongoing natural disaster.

The 2007 supplemental bill rights this wrong. It provides \$3.7 billion in agriculture disaster relief, which will help Kansans continue to farm and ranch in spite of the ever-present threats of drought, fire, and other catastrophes.

Our farming and ranching communities need a government that supports them during their most difficult hours. Now Congress has an opportunity to meet their needs, to serve as a steward of the agricultural industry.

A vote for the supplemental bill is a vote for our farmers and ranchers.

IN PRAISE OF "PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD" WINNER, MELISSA MORGAN

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a special young lady, a constituent of mine, Ms. Melissa Morgan of Hillsdale, Michigan. Ms. Morgan is a recipient of the highest level of the "Presidential Service Award," the Gold Level, honoring her dedication to Hillsdale community through her volunteer efforts.

Ms. Morgan is a student at Hillsdale High School where she has been involved with several extracurricular activities which include: soccer, basketball and volleyball, as well as cross country. Melissa was the Vice President of the Hillsdale High School National Honor Society, senior class representative for student council and also a participant in the Student Statesmanship Institute. This is just a short list of the activities Melissa has participated in at Hillsdale High School.

Madam Speaker, those activities which I have just named are impressive, however, Ms. Morgan's volunteer efforts are the heart of the "Presidential Service Award." In his 2002 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush called on all Americans to increase volunteerism within their communities. From this call to action came the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation in 2003 which sought out ways to recognize outstanding volunteers, such as Melissa Morgan. The Council created President's Service Award Program and the Presidential Service Award.

The Gold Level of the "Presidential Service Award," requires young adults, such as Ms. Morgan, to volunteer two hundred fifty hours or more of their time. Ms. Morgan has eclipsed this threshold almost five times, netting just below 1200 volunteer hours. I will highlight just a few of Melissa's volunteer activities; Spanish assistant and tutor—180

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

hours, Key Club volunteer—200 hours, 40 hours dedicated to organizing and running a children's sports camp raising money for Hurricane Katrina victims and 10 hours volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

Melissa Morgan is a great example of everything right with America and is a reflection of the spirit of a true Michigander, selfless and fighting for a cause greater than themselves. I am pleased to congratulate Melissa Morgan on her achievement of the "Presidential Service Award," and I commend her for her work.

CALLING FOR RELEASE OF
ISRAELI SOLDIERS HELD CAP-
TIVE BY HAMAS AND
HEZBOLLAH

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 107, a resolution calling for the immediate release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit by Hamas, as well as urging Hezbollah to accept the mandate of the U.N. Security Council Resolution by immediately releasing Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev.

Israel has taken dramatic steps in recent years to bring about peace in the Middle East, including removing all forces from Lebanon and in 2005 unilaterally withdrawing from Gaza. In return, Israel continues to be threatened by Hezbollah, which is backed and encouraged by Iran and Syria, and Hamas, which controls the Palestinian Authority. Neither group recognizes Israel's right to exist and refuses to seek democracy and peace.

Mr. Speaker, by passing H. Res. 107, we have made a clear statement that these soldiers should be released, and that the United States will stand with Israel while continuing to work with the international community to bring peace to the region. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 107.

RECOGNIZING THE YOUNG MEN'S
LEAGUE OF GUAM FOR SERVICE
TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the members of the Young Men's League of Guam, the YMLG, for their service to our community for over 90 years. YMLG is perhaps the oldest, active non-profit organizations in my home district, continuing to provide dedicated and honorable volunteer service to this day. The YMLG contributes immensely to help the homeless, the medically indigent, and less fortunate in Guam, as well as the elderly at St. Dominic's Geriatric Care Facility. They also support and assist other charity organizations.

Since its founding in 1917, the Young Men's League of Guam has remained true to its mission to uphold and defend the principles of good government by instilling among its mem-

bers a sense of individual obligation to our community, as well as fostering and promoting friendship, camaraderie, closer understanding and respect among themselves as unique equals. Also known proudly as "I Inethon Laláhen Guáhan," the Young Men's League of Guam continues to be a strong proponent for the preservation and advancement of the indigenous culture, language, heritage and traditions of the Chamorros of Guam and the Marianas. YMLG annually sponsors the "Silabrasion Chamorro" Student Oratorical, Essay, and Writing Competitions.

As its name proclaims, the Young Men's League of Guam has always sought to harness the talents and instill a sense of community obligation among up-and-coming young men as they take their places in our society. Educational and Recreational promotion of youth continues through scholarships, financial contributions, and sponsorships. Today, many members continue active membership, even though they are well into their senior years.

Madam Speaker, YMLG's membership roster is a "Who's Who" of 20th Century Guam history. Indeed, the legacies of its charter officers—Mr. Leon Flores, president; Mr. Jose Duenas, vice president; Mr. Manuel Ulloa, secretary; Mr. Adriano Cristobal; and Mr. Vicente Arriola, librarian/historian—live on through their offspring and beyond. President Flores was the father of Guam's first Roman Catholic bishop and archbishop, the late Felixberto C. Flores. Vice President Duenas was the father of retired U.S. District Court Judge Cristobal C. Duenas and the brother of Father Jesus Baza Duenas, who was executed during the occupation of Guam in World War II. Secretary Ulloa was a prominent and a long-time island educator. Treasurer Cristobal was the grandfather of Superior Court Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena; and YMLG Historian Arriola was the father of former Speaker Joaquin C. Arriola. Indeed, all the Chamorro Governors of Guam, appointed and elected, were members of the Young Men's League of Guam at some point in their public careers. They include the late Joseph Flores, the late Manuel F.L. Guerrero, and the late Carlos G. Camacho, father of our current governor, Felix P. Camacho, who is a YMLG member himself. Former governors Paul M. Calvo, Joseph F. Ada, and Carl T.C. Gutierrez were YMLG members as well. My late husband, Ricardo J. Bordallo, who served two terms as governor of Guam, and my late father-in-law, Balthazar J. Bordallo, who served in both the pre-war bicameral Guam Congress, as Chairman of the upper House of Council, and the postwar Guam Legislature, were lifelong members, as was Governor Calvo's father, Eduardo T. Calvo, and Francisco B. Leon Guerrero, who, with my father-in-law, was known as the fathers of the Organic Act of Guam.

HONORING THE STAFF OF FAIRVIEW SOUTHDALDE HOSPITAL AND FRIENDS OF THE ORPHANS MINNESOTA REGION MARCH 13, 2007

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a group of Minnesotans who exemplify the great spirit of American compassion, generosity and human ingenuity by making a difference in the lives of a group of orphans living in El Salvador. I especially want to thank the staff and volunteers of both Friends of the Orphans Minnesota Region who helped facilitate arrangements for five Salvadoran orphans to have eye surgery in Minnesota earlier this year.

Claudia Vanessa Vasquez Ramos, age 18; Estela Martinez Perdomo, age 18; Hector Lopez Jovel, age 10; Jonas Perez, age 6 and Brian Stanley Lemus, age 5 were born with strabismus, commonly known as cross or unaligned eyes. When Minnesota residents learned about these orphans, and that corrective surgery for strabismus is not available in El Salvador, they worked with Friends of the Orphans to bring them to Minnesota for surgery. Mr. Nestor Jaramillo arranged surgeons and nurses at Fairview Southdale Hospital to perform the surgery, while Friends of the Orphans made flight arrangements and helped to coordinate host families.

On January 18th, the children arrived in Minnesota, and their successful surgeries were performed the following day. The day after their surgeries, I had the opportunity to meet these young people at Our Lady of Grace Church in Edina, Minnesota, and experienced firsthand their excitement with their new, corrected vision. By January 22nd, they returned to El Salvador with a much brighter outlook for the future in their home country.

I am pleased to honor the generosity of doctors, pediatricians, and nurses at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, Minnesota, who through the donation of their skills and time to perform the surgeries, gave a life-long gift to these orphans.

Fairview Southdale Hospital surgeons and nurses: Marshall Everson, M.D.; S. Jafar Hassan, M.D.; Mathew Jones, pediatrician; Thomas LeFebvre, pediatrician; Linda Rosengren, R.N.; Barbara Resendez, R.N.; George Markuson, surgical tech; Christine Volp, C.R.N.A.; Dennis Bless, C.R.N.A.; Dr. Suzanne Shearen, M.D.A.; Becky Hagemann, R.N.; Jan Johnson, R.N.; Sharon Cegla, R.N.; Shirley Holton, R.N.; Kristi Bahnemann, R.N.; Susan Hahn, health unit coordinator; Brad Beard, President of Fairview Southdale Hospital; Nestor Jaramillo, Jr., Vice-President of Sales and Marketing; Bonnie Herda, director of perip services; Julie Hennen, communications and marketing staff.

In addition I want to recognize the extraordinary individuals, families, groups and organizations that have offered their hearts to make a difference in the lives of these orphans:

Friends of the Orphans Minnesota Region and its entire staff: Judy Hawkinson, Charlene Dick, Gail Duer, Erin Dirksen and Mackenzie Wheeler.

Host families: Nestor and Laurie Jaramillo, Stephen and Elizabeth Smith, John and Mary O'Toole.

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) Central America: Father Ron Hicks.

The U.S. Embassy in San Salvador: thanks to Consul General Virginia Hotchner and the entire staff of the Consular Section for their assistance in providing non-immigrant visas for the children.

Mr. Chao Lee from my St. Paul office: special thanks to Chao for his hard work and tenacity in working with Friends of the Orphans and the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador to secure non-immigrant visas for the children.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the staff of Friends of the Orphans, U.S. Embassy staff in San Salvador, and the doctors, pediatricians and nurses of the Fairview Southdale Hospital and compassionate citizens who made an impact on the lives of the five Salvadoran orphans, I submit this statement for the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BAY AREA REGIONAL WATER RECYCLING PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to be joined by many of my colleagues in introducing legislation to help the San Francisco Bay Area to solve its water challenges. The bill is a revision of legislation I first introduced in the 109th Congress, and will provide local agencies with the Federal partner that they need to implement an ambitious and forward-thinking regional water recycling program.

The City of Pittsburg and the Delta Diablo Sanitation District, in my congressional district, have been leading the charge, investing time, energy, and local funds in developing water recycling projects to help meet regional water needs.

My new legislation, the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Authorization Act of 2007, would authorize a federal partner for the effort in Pittsburg, as well as for similar programs in Antioch, Palo Alto, Mountain View, Pacifica, South Santa Clara County, Redwood City, and San Jose.

We put the tools for these Federal-local water recycling partnerships in place with the historic Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, which not only included my Central Valley Project Improvement Act but featured a provision now known simply as the "Title XVI" water recycling program.

In my introductory remarks for last year's version of the bill, I made the case for the Title XVI program and the importance of water recycling. Although the Bush administration continues to oppose funding water recycling, the case has only gotten stronger since then, as evidenced by the breadth of local support for this bill and for the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program. I am also including in the record an editorial from the Contra Costa Times supporting the earlier bill.

The Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program is a collaboration of public utilities

that helps to meet our region's and state's growing water needs through a set of recycling and reclamation projects. The projects in this coalition have been repeatedly vetted, both internally at the local level and through each step of the Title XVI review process.

Although these worthy projects have supplied local funding, and secured matching State funding, they still need the Federal partner to step up. There is a clear Federal interest in these projects, as there is in the other successful regional recycling programs like those of Southern California. A good water recycling program stretches existing supplies and provides certainty to all of the water users in the area; conflict can be reduced even in a critically dry year. As we all know, a stable and reliable regional water supply makes good neighbors.

This new bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the following Bay Area water reuse projects: Antioch Recycled Water Project (Delta Diablo Sanitation District, City of Antioch); Pacifica Recycled Water Project (North Coast County Water District); Mountain View/Moffett Area Water Reuse Project (City of Palo Alto, City of Mountain View); Pittsburg Recycled Water Project (Delta Diablo Sanitation District, City of Pittsburg); Redwood City Recycled Water Project; South Santa Clara County Recycled Water Project (Santa Clara Valley Water District, South County Regional Wastewater Authority); and South Bay Advanced Recycled Water Treatment Facility (Santa Clara Valley Water District, City of San Jose).

These seven projects are estimated to make 12,205 acre-feet of water available annually in the short term, and 37,600 acre-feet annually in the long term, all while reducing demand on the Delta and on existing water infrastructure. The new bill also directs the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to fully fund the San Jose Area Water Reclamation and Reuse Project, first authorized in the original Title XVI legislation.

These programs are a fiscal and environmental win-win, and encouraging them is sound federal policy. I commend my original cosponsors for joining in this effort to support our region's water recycling initiative: Reps. ANNA ESHOO, ELLEN TAUSCHER, TOM LANTOS, MIKE HONDA, ZOE LOFGREN, JERRY MCNERNEY, and PETE STARK.

I'm glad to be working with my Bay Area colleagues to help our region's water reuse program, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

[From the Contra Costa Times, Jan. 25, 2007]

FUND WATER RECYCLING

One of the most effective ways to protect our environment and efficiently use natural resources is recycling. It is particularly true of water, which can be used more than once.

There is no good reason to flush wastewater into rivers, bays, estuaries and the ocean if it can be treated and used again for other purposes such as irrigating parks and golf courses.

That is the philosophy behind six Bay Area water recycling projects ready to begin once they are fully funded. They are in Pittsburg, Antioch, Pacifica, Palo Alto-Mountain View, Redwood City and South Santa Clara County.

The recycled water will be treated and piped to water golf courses, parks, school grounds and roadway medians, and will be used by some businesses.

Half of the money for the projects will come from local sources. One-fourth will

come from the state, including Proposition 50 funds. Another one-fourth will come from the federal government under a bill sponsored by Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez.

Pittsburg has taken the lead in the recycling effort, has raised local money, has some of the infrastructure in place and already is doing some recycling. Antioch is not far behind.

Both cities are at the top of the list for the second round of state funding for recycled-water projects.

However, the Department of Water Resources, which can approve the money by administrative decision, needs a bit of prodding by local legislators.

Miller's bill, HR 6218, which has bipartisan support, also needs quick approval.

Together, the six Bay Area projects would recycle nearly 10,000 acre-feet of water per year. That is not a large percentage of the total volume of water used in the area, but it is a significant amount and would help spur more recycling efforts.

The total cost of the six projects is \$74.8 million. But the state and federal governments' share is only \$18.7 million each. The state money already is available, and there is no reason to believe the federal funds will not be forthcoming.

Recycling is not the only way to meet the Bay Area's and California's water needs, but it must be part of the solution. Not only does it use water effectively, it also reduces pollution of the Delta, San Pablo Bay and San Francisco Bay.

We trust state and federal officials will agree and act quickly to help local efforts to recycle an essential resource.

THE WYLAND FOUNDATION'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Wyland Foundation for its outstanding achievements in environmental education programs. Since 1993, the Wyland Foundation has dedicated itself to protecting the earth's oceans by bridging the world of art and science.

The Wyland Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving the world's oceans, waterways, and marine life. The foundation, led by the artist Wyland, encourages environmental awareness through education programs, life-size public arts projects, and community events. The Wyland Foundation strives to inspire as many people as possible—especially school children—to learn more about our oceans and aquatic habitats.

Perhaps the Wyland Foundation's best known initiative is the Whaling Walls: Art in Public Places. Through Whaling Walls, the Wyland Foundation works with communities to paint large-scale murals of migrating gray whales, breaching humpbacks, blue whales, and other marine life. The program is predicated on the idea that the best way to teach someone about environmental conservation is to show them what they are conserving.

The 81st Whaling Wall was painted at the Aquarium of Niagara in Niagara Falls, New York in 1998. The project allowed children ranging from three to eighteen years old to

work side-by-side with Wyland to create a beautiful indoor mural. Niagara's Whaling Wall is a regional treasure that has helped foster a greater appreciation and awareness for our world's oceans.

Madam Speaker, I want to again commend the Wyland Foundation for their commitment to protecting the world's oceans, and their partnership with the Aquarium of Niagara.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall Votes No. 136–138 on March 12, 2007 and rollcall votes No 139–141 on March 13, 2007. It was six suspension votes H.R. 85, the Energy Technology Transfer Act, H. Res. 136, Commending the Girl Scouts of the United States of America on the occasion of their 95th anniversary, and H. Res. 89, Expressing the sense of the House that a day should be established as Dutch-American Friendship Day, H. Res. 64, Expressing the sense of the House that the Government of Bangladesh should immediately drop all pending charges against Bangladeshi journalist Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury, H. Res. 228, Recognizing the 186th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American Democracy, and H. Res. 222, Expressing the support of the House for the Good Friday Agreement as a blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland, respectively. I was detained and could not make it to the floor for this vote.

If present, I would have voted rollcall Vote No. 136, "yea," roll call Vote No. 137, "yea," rollcall Vote No. 138, "yea," Vote No. 139, "yea," rollcall Vote No. 140, "yea," and rollcall Vote No. 141, "yea."

TRIBUTE TO HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE ROBERT ECKELS

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and wish a happy 50th birthday to my dear friend and colleague, Harris County Judge Robert Eckels. Until last week, Judge Eckels was the presiding officer of the Harris County Commissioners Court—the governing body of the county, and the only member that is elected countywide. The position involves executive, judicial, and legislative functions in the third most populace county in the United States. There are 34 municipalities within the county, including the county seat and the fourth largest city in the country, the City of Houston. More than 1.2 million people live in unincorporated Harris County and rely on the county to be the primary provider of basic government services. The term County Judge in Texas is comparable to a County Executive or County Mayor in other parts of the country.

Judge Eckels has been in public service for more than 25 years. He recently retired from

public service after a distinguished career to join the private sector. He and his wife, Jet, are dear friends of mine and my wife, Belinda.

Robert Eckels was first elected to the Texas Legislature in 1982. When he began his service in January of 1983 he was only 25-years-old. Few thought he would have much impact his first year, but he passed 8 of 13 bills in his legislative package. Robert's quiet demeanor frequently led fellow members to urge the enforcement of the "no mumble rule" so they could understand what he was saying, but his understated nature was also key to his success in Austin. He did not care who got credit for passing legislation, so long as it was good law that did not have to fix later. He understands the legislative process, legislative language and the legislative intent as well as anyone I know.

Robert also cared about his colleagues. He would approach Members towards the end of our legislative sessions to ask them how their legislative agendas were coming along. If a Member complained that their most important bill was in trouble in committee or on the House floor, he would help his colleagues amend their priority onto another bill or find some other way to pass their bills.

In 1991 the Texas Monthly Magazine described his character in its biennial article at the end of the Legislative session entitled "The Best and the Worst Legislators." In that piece he was named an Outstanding Legislator for his work in ethics reform and redistricting, "the session's most thankless issues." It said "Eckels wrote a bill that outshone its rivals as silver outshines dirt." Other quotes describe his character, "Eckels is unselfish to the point of being sacrificial. He's the Good Samaritan of the House; he finds hurt people by the side of the road and helps them get well."

In 1994 Robert decided to leave the Legislature, over the protests of many of his House colleagues, myself included, to run for the office of Harris County Judge. He saw an opportunity to work on the issues that were most important to him and his vision for the county he grew up in and served with distinction in the Legislature. He won the election and his opponent in that election later became a member of his advisory group.

TRANSPORTATION

Judge Eckels believes as I do that one of the most important priorities in our county is improving the major transportation corridors so people do not spend hours stuck in traffic jams. Judge Eckels also believes, as I do, that mobility is vital to our county's future. He served as chairman of the Transportation Policy Council for the Houston-Galveston region and was a major author of the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan.

Judge Eckels was also Chairman of the Alliance for I-69 Texas and the Texas High Speed Rail & Transportation Corporation. Texas House of Representatives Speaker Tom Craddick appointed him to the Study Commission on Transportation Financing to look at the broader issues facing the State of Texas. It was Judge Eckels who spearheaded an effort to turn abandoned railroad right-of-way running through my District into major traffic arteries which bring hundreds of thousands of daily commuters into and out of downtown Houston. Today, as a result of his vision and leadership, the Westpark Toll Way, the country's first entirely electronic toll road, is an innovative addition to the Harris County Toll Road Authority.

HOMELAND SECURITY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Judge Eckels has always been deeply concerned with hurricanes and other natural disasters and the county's response to crises. He commissioned a study showing the impact of a Category-V hurricane coming into Galveston Bay, and he initiated planning procedures to ensure first responders had the proper training and equipment to take action.

He began to set up an interoperable communications system for Harris County that could be expanded regionally to allow communications among first responders across jurisdictional and disciplinary lines. Building such a system has required a strong leader like Judge Eckels to convince various agencies that rely on mission-critical communication to trust Harris County's Information Technology Department to build an interoperable system which was better than one they could run on their own.

Today, the Harris County Regional Radio System is a model communication system that has grown to support a shared infrastructure with more than 133 channels and 17 tower sites. It currently covers all of Harris County and parts of eight other counties, with the intent to expand even farther. As resources are available it will be expanded until it serves all 13 counties in the Houston/Galveston Area Council's service area.

There are more than 20,000 users from more than 400 different departments/agencies with nearly 2,000 mobile data-terminals and the system is growing quickly. The regional radio system is not only an essential response tool when disaster strikes, it can also be adapted to conform to the needs of the partners in day-to-day operations. Harris County has more than 90 different policing agencies operating in very close proximity. This system allows dispatchers to send the closest officer to the scene of an incident regardless of which agency the responder works for.

In his first State of the Union Address after 9/11, President George W. Bush called upon all Americans to dedicate at least two years of their lives—the equivalent of 4,000 hours—in service to others. He launched the Citizen Corps initiative to inspire and enable Americans to find ways to serve their communities and country. In response to the President's initiative, in August 2002, Judge Eckels created the Harris County Citizen Corps Council. The Council coordinates with volunteer groups such as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the United Way to identify volunteer opportunities. The Citizen Corps programs include the Community Emergency Response Team, the Neighborhood Watch Program, Volunteers in Police Service, Fire Corps, and the Medical Reserve Corps.

When Hurricane Katrina caused the evacuation of more than 250,000 to the Harris County area, Judge Eckels coordinated and managed the relief effort to create comfortable, welcoming shelters. Approximately 27,000 evacuees came to "Reliant City," which was created in the facilities at Reliant Park and the George R. Brown Convention Center in a 20 hour period in August 2005. This was the largest sheltering operation in U.S. history.

Thousands of volunteers were needed to assist in the relief operation and within one hour of the initial call for assistance to the Citizen Corps, more than 1,000 volunteers arrived at the shelter. In all, more than 60,000

of our citizens came forward, received training from existing Citizen Corps members, and made the massive, weeks-long sheltering operation possible. The Judge said that Katrina was a blessing for our community because it showed us just how much we were able to give when our Louisiana neighbors needed a helping hand.

Just three weeks after the nation watched the devastation of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita was headed straight for Harris County. An already exhausted team, led by Judge Eckels, shut down the last sheltering operation for Katrina evacuees and prepared for the next storm. With less than 48 hours before Rita was predicted to reach landfall on Galveston Island, Judge Eckels worked with Governor Rick Perry and Houston Mayor Bill White to begin the largest evacuation in U.S. history. Under Judge Eckels' watchful eye and calm demeanor, he gave frequent updates to motorists stranded in the exodus and assured them that help was on the way. While the unprecedented evacuation was difficult, it was considered a success. Before the storm reached the shore later that night, the roadways were empty and our citizens were out of harms' way.

The Judge's work during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was recognized with a number of awards. In an article entitled "The Power of Government to Do Good" in *Esquire* magazine, Judge Eckels was named the Best and Brightest 0/2005, Citizen of the Year for his extraordinary leadership. "When the city of New Orleans evacuated to Houston, Harris County Judge Robert Eckels took them in. He was an island of competence in the face of catastrophe," *Esquire* wrote.

The Partners for Livable Communities, a nonprofit organization headquartered here in Washington DC, gave the Judge the "Bridge Builders Award" for his collaboration efforts during the hurricane crises. The Greater Houston Partnership named him one of "Houston's Greatest Individuals 2005." *American City and County Leader* magazine named Eckels "2006 County Leader of the Year."

Under his leadership, the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has become a national model for preparedness and response to emergency situations, natural or manmade. Considered an expert in local emergency management and response, Judge Eckels has testified before both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate Homeland Security Committees and he serves on the State and Local Senior Advisory Committee to President Bush's Homeland Security Advisory Council.

HEALTHCARE

The population of Harris County has grown considerably in recent decades and with that growth has come a disproportionately large population of uninsured and underinsured. Judge Eckels realized long ago that the needs of this growing community cannot be met by government alone. Therefore, under his leadership, Harris County has forged strong partnerships with non-profit, private, public, and faith-based health care providers and clinics to coordinate medical services to the poor and indigent. The Harris County Healthcare Council was created to coordinate a more efficient health care delivery system. He has, throughout his tenure as County Judge, maintained that the Harris County Hospital District should

be there for those who have no where else to turn.

FLOOD CONTROL

In 1996 Judge Eckels asked Congress to help speed some of the critical flood-damage reduction projects to protect the citizens of our county. Under his leadership, the Harris County Flood Control District is now able to take the lead on flood reduction projects. As a result, our constituents along the Brays Bayou and White Oak Bayou are already receiving the benefits of flood mitigation years ahead of schedule.

CLEAN AIR

Harris County is committed to cleaning the air in our region. Judge Eckels is nationally recognized as an expert in devising and implementing acceptable air quality plans on the county level. He has testified before a U.S. Senate subcommittee on air quality issues and has appeared on national television news shows discussing environmental issues.

He also initiated new monitoring systems to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations, funding computer modeling to base our clean air decisions on the best information possible and searching for the newest and most cost-effective technologies to clean our air. Under his watch, the latest state of the art monitors that detect most of the 189 Hazardous Air Pollutants listed by the Environmental Protection Agency are in place in Harris County—paid for by environmental violators, not taxpayers.

CHILDREN'S ISSUES

Judge Eckels is passionate about children's issues. As fathers, he and I have shared many stories about raising our daughters. Like me, he always puts his family first. He and his wife, Jet, could not be more committed to their daughter, Kirby Rae.

That commitment inspired Robert to take a vital leadership role in the Do the Write Thing Challenge, a program of the National Campaign to Stop Violence. As chairman for the State of Texas, he has grown the program to an unprecedented size with more than 24,000 participants in 10 communities. Judge Eckels also spearheaded a collaboration that would become the Children's Assessment Center (CAC). The CAC gives victims on-site access to experts in abuse prevention, medical treatment, forensic examination, family counseling, therapeutic services and criminal prosecution. Each year, more than 5,000 sexually abused children, their siblings, and non-offending caregivers are served by this nationally recognized partnership of more than 20 agencies.

Judge Robert Eckels is a sound fiscal conservative who has always taken a business approach to government. Harris County applies common sense business principles to provide the best service at the least cost to taxpayers. Under his leadership Harris County introduced private sector competition to drive down the cost of government services. He led the reorganization of county departments and performance reviews, cut the number of departments in half, reducing service duplication, improving coordination and accountability and saving more than \$14 million each year.

Under his leadership the county's debt was restructured, saving more than \$60 million since 1995. Confidence in Harris County's financial footing has been restored. All of the major bond rating agencies have upgraded Harris County's bond ratings saving taxpayers

millions of dollars in interest each year. Most importantly, financial reserves are up, revenues are up, and spending is under control. Judge Eckels understands that when we decrease taxes here at the Federal level, and cut funding to state and local governments, they cannot and must not increase taxes at the local level. He has found new and innovative ways to deliver the same services that promote the quality of life we have all come to expect here in the greatest country in the history of the world.

I hope that Robert Eckels will reenter public life again someday because he is an exemplary leader. If he chooses not to, there is no doubt that he has left behind a strong legacy in Harris County. I will always value his friendship and counsel.

TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY EVERETT

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, the St. Louis Post Dispatch recently published a series of articles to shed light on music education in the St. Louis Public Schools. The significant benefits conveyed by music education are immeasurable. Studies have found that education in the arts leads to success in society, school and life. I applaud the St. Louis Public Schools for recognizing the value of music education. I also commend Mr. Bob Dorries, the instrumental music teacher at McKinley Junior Classical Academy, a St. Louis magnet school, for his commitment to cultivating the gift of music in our children. I was especially impressed with the article's coverage of sixth-grader Sydney Everett's intense desire to master playing the clarinet.

In reading Steve Giegerich's articles, it is obvious that Sydney is an exceptional student who is dedicated to conquering new objectives and realizing her full potential. Sydney's love for music was instilled by her parents Sean and Deirdre Everett. They have always made music a part of Sydney's life. Her father, having taught himself to play the trumpet, shared his love for music with his children. Sydney exhibits that same drive and frequently takes the initiative to teach herself lessons before the class covers them.

Madam Speaker, it is with great privilege that I recognize Sydney Everett today before Congress. I encourage Sydney to continue her studies and remain committed to exploring new horizons.

The two articles from the St. Louis Post Dispatch chronicling Sydney's journey to master playing the clarinet follow this tribute.

[From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sept. 30, 2006]

LEARNING TO PLAY: WILL SYDNEY MAKE THE BAND?

(By Steve Giegerich)

It's no accident that a poster of Miles Davis is in the sight line of Bob Dorries' students as he stands at the blackboard to review scales, time signatures and other rudiments of music education at McKinley Classical Junior Academy.

Dorries put it there as a constant reminder of the link between the East St. Louis jazz icon and the potential heirs to his legacy who pass through Dorries' classroom each day.

The connection is pretty much lost on the majority of sixth-graders enrolled in the instrumental music program at the St. Louis magnet middle school.

Most don't know Miles Davis from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The exception is an intense young girl in Dorries' seventh-period band class. Sydney Everett required no introduction to Davis, the man who provided much of the soundtrack for her childhood.

As parents, Sean and Deirdre Everett's priorities were established far in advance of Sydney's arrival on March 30, 1995. "Education has been the goal since her birth," said Deirdre.

The motivation came in part by the failure to realize their own potential. Both Sean and Deirdre had left college without a degree.

"I always felt I didn't take full advantage of all I had," said Sean. "Now I look at the way the world is going, and you have to have that degree."

From the moment she was born, music danced on the periphery of Sydney's life.

Her father had developed an eclectic taste in music as his family moved from one military base to another across the country.

"I listen to it all," he said. And the Everetts made sure their children did the same. Sydney and her brother, Sean Michael, their father said, "have an open mind toward music and life, too. I want them to experience everything possible."

Between the birth of his first and second children, Sean bought a used trumpet at a secondhand store.

Though he'd dabbled with the guitar in high school, he'd never learned to read music. He still can't. But he taught himself to play that trumpet by emulating chords and riffs of the musician he admires above all others: Miles Davis.

When Sean Everett's daughter took a seat in Dorries' band room a month ago, her own experience as a musician was limited to a month of piano lessons, family Karaoke sing-alongs at Christmastime and a class at Kennard Elementary School that taught the 12-tone musical scale.

Over the summer, Sydney toyed with the idea of enrolling in McKinley's vocal music program, a notion she ultimately rejected. "I knew I couldn't sing," she said.

On the day she walked into Dorries' class for the first time, Sydney was just as sure she knew which instrument she wanted to play: the trumpet, like her dad.

"Just to hear music in the house will be nice," said Sean Everett. "Music opens up so many horizons. She'll meet so many characters playing music, and it's such a release. Who knows? She could wind up joining an orchestra, seeing the world."

Before that can happen, Sydney must learn an instrument.

LEARNING THE NOTES

Impish and sarcastic, music teacher Dorries often plays the theme from "Final Jeopardy!" on the classroom synthesizer as students ponder a question. Dorries, 43, has a firm set of rules and little tolerance for those who break them.

Rule No.1 for sixth-graders: Before receiving an instrument, they must score an 80 or above on a 60-question exam that tests their knowledge of the categories of band instruments, musical history and, critically, the 12-tone notation scale.

The payoff for those who obey the rules, practice and stay the course is a chair in one of McKinley's four bands, which perform two concerts a year.

The students get as many opportunities as necessary to pass the exam. Most need it. Rare is the student who hits the magic score of 80 the first time.

Summoning lessons learned at elementary school, Sydney scored an 89.

The following week, Dorries asked the students who had fallen short of a passing grade to review their tests and prepare to retake the exam. Then he summoned Sydney to his desk.

"Let's see what you can blow," the teacher said, producing an array of sanitized mouthpieces for brass and woodwinds.

"I come from the theory of music that every person's mouth determines what instrument they should play," he explained. "It has nothing to do with intelligence, where you've come from, what school you attended or your ability. It's something you come to naturally. It's the shape of your mouth."

The fourth generation in a family of musicians, Dorries' philosophy was born of personal experience, a childhood dream of playing the trumpet shattered by the inability to make a single sound through a cornet mouthpiece. It wasn't until his teacher handed him the mouthpiece for a saxophone that he achieved the desired result. He was 5 and has played the sax ever since.

Dorries turned to Sydney: "The lesson here is that what we think we want to play, nine times out of 10, is not the instrument we wind up with. And looking at your overbite, I'd say there's a real good chance you'll be good at a wind instrument."

First, however, Sydney needed to learn the same lesson instilled in Dorries.

She blew into a trombone mouthpiece. Nothing. Same with the mouthpiece for a cornet. All hope of following in the footsteps of her dad and Miles Davis vanished, she slumped a bit in her chair.

Dorries handed her a mouthpiece and a clarinet reed and demonstrated how to moisten it. "Blow," he instructed.

A duck call broke the quiet of the room.

"It's called a squawk, that's what we're after," said Dorries. Sydney sat straighter, blew into the mouthpiece. Squawk.

All eyes on their classmate, the rest of the students stopped studying. Dorries held Sydney's cheeks to prevent them from puffing out. "Roll the mouthpiece over in your mouth," he said gently.

Sydney blew. Squawk.

Her classmates applauded and whooped. Sydney smiled.

After auditioning two more mouthpieces, she ruled out the saxophone and flute and chose the instrument her mother had played, long ago, at O'Fallon Technical High.

"I want the clarinet," Sydney told her teacher. "I like the way it sounds."

"I think that's a wise choice, either that or the flute," he responded. "With your mouth structure, you belong on a wind instrument. You have lovely cheeks."

Dorries excused himself and retreated to an adjoining supply room, emerging a moment later with a small black case.

Eyes wide, Sydney watched as Dorries slowly revealed the contents of the black case: a coal-black Yamaha clarinet nestled unassembled on a bed of molded velvet.

He handed her a form. The clarinet, he explained, belongs to the St. Louis Public Schools. After her parents gave written assurance that it would receive proper care, the instrument would be hers to take home.

Sydney slipped the piece of paper into a notebook just as the bell rang. Hefting her books, she headed for the door, her next class and the next phase of the journey envisioned by Sean and Deirdre Everett, long before their daughter was born.

[From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Nov. 18, 2006]

LEARNING TO PLAY: GIFTED STUDENTS GET NEW MOUNTAIN TO SCALE

(By Steve Giegerich)

No one will ever confuse Bob Dorries with Harold Hill, the mythical Music Man who, in another River City, bamboozled parents with the belief that their children could play double bell euphoniums and big bassoons—not to mention 76 trombones—without learning a single note of music.

Dorries is a fundamentalist. Not in the religious sense, but of the doctrine that music is a gift learned slowly and methodically through repetition.

For Dorries, the instrumental music teacher at McKinley Junior Classical Academy, a St. Louis magnet school for academically talented students, "Sixth grade is a kind of band boot camp."

Boot camp rule No. 1: Every student must pass an exam testing his or her grasp of musical history, notation scales, time signatures, flats and sharps.

Those who pass are paired with an instrument. Those who fail are destined to take the exam until they get it right.

For nearly 2 weeks, the first rule produced a divide in Dorries' seventh-period, sixth-grade instrumental music class.

On one side, the successful test-takers, B-flat clarinetist Sydney Everett and alto saxophonists Megan Ratcliff and Nick Wiegand, attacked the beginning exercises in Book One of the "Standard of Excellence—Comprehensive Band Method" and its companion CD.

Across the room, the others found inspiration and passed the test one by one.

All things being relative, Sydney was virtuosos by the time Jonathan Brooks added a trombone, Shaunice Safford a flute, Kaelan Moorehead a B-flat clarinet and Wolfgang Fortel a trumpet to the seventh-period ensemble.

That Sydney's virtuosity occurred on a clarinet was a bit unexpected. Sydney had intended to take up the trumpet, the instrument her father had played during her formative years.

Her dream of emulating her dad and Miles Davis ended when Dorries determined that the shape of her mouth was more conducive to a woodwind. Upon receiving her instrument, Sydney had no problem adhering to boot camp rule No.2: self-discipline.

"I only have you twice a week for 50 minutes," Dorries points out at least, well, twice a week. "I can help you when you're here. But there's seven of you and one of me."

Translation: The real learning takes place 30 minutes at a time. And it takes place at home. Due diligence is documented in practice reports, signed by parents and delivered to Dorries every other week.

The exemplary practice reports are posted on a "Wall of Fame." Less-than-satisfactory reports land on a "Wall of Shame." Dorries is characteristically blunt:

Kids who don't practice won't participate in rehearsals, won't perform in concert and won't pass his class.

Quiet and intense by nature, Sydney exhibited a preternatural ability to figure things out on her own from the time she was in pre-kindergarten. When she took up the clarinet this year, there was little need for her parents, Shawn and Deirdre Everett, to remind their daughter to practice.

Barely a week after receiving her clarinet, Sydney jumped ahead in the book to teach herself "Hot Cross Buns," a song incorporating the three notes—E-C-D she'd learned to date.

So, too, had Megan, who'd also skipped to the lesson in her saxophone book. Best

friends since first grade, Sydney and Megan are equals in all ways but one: When it comes to decibels, Megan's instrument trumps Sydney's.

"I don't like the music we play in class that much because I can't hear myself," said Sydney. "It's the CD and Megan. They drown me out."

Along with classmate Nick—who learned the rudiments of his saxophone over the summer—Megan and Sydney established themselves as the tone-setters (so to speak) of the seventh period.

RULE NO. 3

The third rule of sixth-grade boot camp stipulates that students must learn to assemble, disassemble and properly store the instrument in its carrying case before they blow a single note.

With Dorries preoccupied with Shaunice and her flute, Sydney stepped into the breach.

Turning to fellow clarinetist Kaelan, she reviewed the rudiments of clarinet assembly and disassembly she'd learned just weeks before.

"Mr. Dorries was helping Shaunice," she explained later. "And (Kaelan) was doing it wrong. I was afraid that Mr. Dorries would yell at him, so I helped out."

"Besides," she added with a smile, "I was bored."

Not for long.

BIG NEWS

In the first week of this month, Dorries cleared his throat and waited for the din to die down.

The acerbic band director smiled broadly, clearly reflecting his pleasure at the announcement: "We've decided to let the Beginning Band butcher the holiday concert."

"Jingle Bells," he added, "will be the piece sacrificed on the altar of music."

Dorries paused. There was more news. Three students in the class, he continued, would not be joining the beginning band.

The class shifted nervously, wondering who would be excluded and why.

"Sydney Everett, congratulations. Megan Ratcliff, congratulations. Nick Wiegand, congratulations," Dorries said. "I'm about to hand you three pieces of music. You'll continue to work from the red book in class here. These three other pieces are from the blue book. The three of you are in Intermediate Band."

The first thing Sydney noticed when she glanced at the music—"Jingle Bell Rock," "Joyeux Noel" and "Tequila"—were the chords.

Dorries picked up on her hesitation.

"I'm going to warn you, there are some notes in there you haven't learned yet," he said.

Sydney studied the music. "Can we write on the music?" she asked.

Dorries looked at her. In 6 weeks, he knew, Sydney would take her seat on a stage before friends, family, teachers and classmates. She would lift a mouthpiece between her teeth and play an instrument which, when the semester began, she knew existed but hardly understood.

"You surely can," Dorries told his student. "Just make sure you use pencil."

TRIBUTE TO KAYLEE MARIE RADZYMSKI

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an outstanding young lady from

the Third Congressional District of Tennessee, Kaylee Marie Radzynski, of Cleveland, Tennessee. Kaylee is an incredibly special young lady with great ambitions and a strong sense of pride in her country and her military.

Kaylee joined the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corp in December 2002 and has befriended many of our men and women in uniform as she has traveled to our military bases and met with our soldiers first hand. In talking with some soldiers who had just returned from Iraq, she learned that among the things they missed while away from home was entertainment. So when Kaylee was 14 years old, she started an organization known today as Tunes 4 the Troops which consists of her collecting compact discs and DVDs and sending them to our soldiers who are defending our country.

As of last week, Kaylee has sent over 25,000 CDs and DVDs with a value of over \$375,000.00. Kaylee has raised over \$19,000 in cash, goods, and services. The Tennessee Titans NFL team sent her \$4,000 and Outback Steak House provided her with 300 free meals recently for a fundraiser where she raised over \$5,000. The money pays for cases, printing, and shipping costs. So many others are pitching in now . . . a box manufacturer in Ohio donates all the boxes and tape; David Smith, owner of Dick's Graphics in Cleveland, Tennessee, does all the printing at cost; Cleveland News Now.net, a media group in Cleveland, has given Kaylee office space with all utilities and Internet access as well as a computer to use there for 2 years; Cleveland High School, her sponsor in this endeavor, has given Kaylee a checking account at school to facilitate the bookkeeping.

Kaylee has set up drop-off locations all over Bradley County including the Armed Forces Recruiting Offices, Award Realty, Bradley County Courthouse, Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Cleveland City Mayor Tom Rowland's Office, Cleveland High School, Dick's Graphics, Bradley County Justice Center, and Southern Heritage Bank. As of this March, Kaylee has set up 27 other locations across the country to collect more CDs and DVDs for Tunes 4 the Troops with over 20 more boxes scheduled for delivery in combat zones this month.

Madam Speaker, 15-year-old Kaylee Radzynski understands that she is the future of America and that she can look forward to her future because of the sacrifices made for her and all Americans. I'm so proud to represent Kaylee who is using her voice to say "thank you" to all those serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that due to an illness, I missed recorded votes on March 12, 2007 and March 13, 2007.

Had I been present on those days, I would have voted in support of H.R. 85, H. Res. 136, H. Res. 89, H. Res. 64, H. Res. 228, and H. Res. 222.

SUPPORT FOR 2007 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the upcoming 2007 fiscal year supplemental appropriations bill.

Much of the debate on this bill has focused, quite rightly, on the provisions that codify President Bush's benchmarks for Iraq into law. This is an important subject that I plan to discuss in depth later this week.

But today I wish to spotlight another element of this legislation, one that offers renewed hope and opportunity to millions of children in Kansas and throughout the United States: the extension of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP.

If you are fortunate enough to have health coverage, you might not realize what peace of mind insurance brings. You don't worry that your child will wake up with an ear infection that will cost a month's rent. You need not fear that the price of a broken leg will force you to default on your auto loan, or that the injuries from a car crash will obliterate a year's salary.

But for many Americans, these fears are a fact of daily life. Forty-seven million of our fellow citizens—47 million of our brothers and sisters and our sons and daughters, 47 million of our coworkers and colleagues and our friends and neighbors—47 million of us lack health insurance.

Worst of all, among those 47 million uninsured Americans are nine million children.

This is not just an economic or an institutional challenge. It is the moral crisis of our age.

The Federal Government has addressed this simmering emergency through two primary means. The first is decades-old and well-known: Medicaid. Medicaid is a good and vital program, but its scope is very limited. In some states, if your family earns one dollar less than the poverty line, you will receive full Medicaid coverage—but if you earn just a few dollars more, you're ineligible for any assistance whatsoever.

A sane health care policy must recognize that families earning 125% or 150% or even 200% of the poverty line need a helping hand. And that's where the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, enters the scene. SCHIP introduces badly needed flexibility into the Federal health care system. In short, it tells the states, "If you want to expand the eligibility of low-income children and families for government-sponsored health insurance, we'll offer matching funds to help you do it."

In the decade since its inception, SCHIP has proven itself an outstanding success. It has enrolled six million beneficiaries, dramatically reducing the number of uninsured children in our nation.

Later in this legislative session, Congress will consider extending SCHIP beyond 2007, and you'd better believe I'll fight every step of the way for its renewal. But for now our task is simpler. Due to poor planning and inadequate funding from the do-nothing 109th Congress, 14 states are running out of money to finance SCHIP through the current fiscal

year. They need Congress to act immediately to ensure funding.

I urge my colleagues to show our compassion for America's children, to demonstrate that we will not tolerate the scourge of uninsurance. I urge you to vote to extend funding for SCHIP.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit to the record that my vote on H. Res. 228, Recognizing the 186th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American Democracy, was not recorded yesterday. May the record show that I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 228.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE FOR THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 222, the Good Friday Agreement for Northern Ireland.

The United States stands committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict which has plagued Northern Ireland for the past quarter century. The last twelve months have indeed seen historic developments which have raised hopes that at long last the parties to the conflict in Northern Ireland are working together to forge reconciliation.

Today, I strongly support H. Res. 222, to show strong support for the 1998 Good Friday Agreement as the blueprint for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. The measure continues to support the St. Andrews Agreement of October 2006 and commends British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern for their leadership and persistence in seeking a peaceful resolution in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to advocate for the achievement of peace, justice, human rights and political stability in Northern Ireland. That is why I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 222.

RECOGNIZING A TRADITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE GUAM COMMUNITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the late Jesus S. Leon Guerrero's legacy of leadership that was carried on with distinction by his son, the late Anthony A. Leon Guerrero, and that now continues with his daughter, Ms. Lourdes A. Leon

Guerrero, who follows her father and her brother as President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Guam. Ms. Leon Guerrero has served in this capacity since March 31, 2006, and though her service at the helm of the Bank of Guam has been brief, she carries forward the visionary and dedicated leadership and work ethic which have been the hallmarks of the Bank of Guam since its establishment 35 years ago. These hallmarks have consistently characterized the leaders and the employees of the Bank of Guam since its chartering on March 13, 1972 and have given rise to the Bank's reputation as one of the leading and most successful financial institutions in the Pacific. Last year, the Bank was named by the Guam Chamber of Commerce as Business Laureate of the Year and was enrolled into the Guam Business Hall of Fame. Today, the leadership of the late Mr. Jesus S. Leon Guerrero and the Bank of Guam's service to our community continues to be celebrated and recognized by the people of Guam.

After working for the Bank of America for many years, Jesus struck out on his own in 1972 to charter a new and locally-organized bank for our island community—an endeavor that seemed nearly impossible at the time. But Jesus never gave up and his confidence in the future of Guam and in the people of our island never wavered. It was his vision, his drive, and his confidence that led to the chartering of a community bank for the people of Guam.

Upon Jesus's death in 2002, his son Anthony took the reins of leadership at the Bank of Guam. During that same year, Guam was hit by Typhoon Chata'an in July, a powerful earthquake in October, and Supertyphoon Pongsona in December. Still grieving, Anthony rose to the occasion and proved himself a worthy successor of his father. Anthony met and conquered every challenge except one: he lost his battle against cancer in 2004. Jesus's daughter Lourdes was called to assume the mantle of leadership of the Bank. A leader in her own right, as a Senator in the Guam Legislature for several terms, Lourdes did not hesitate and the transfer of the Bank's leadership was seamless and unfaltering.

The Bank of Guam has grown over the past 35 years in meeting the banking, financing, and insurance needs of the people of Guam and the greater Micronesia region. Today, the Bank of Guam, a publicly-traded company, has a presence on nearly every island in the region and in San Francisco, California. Such is the legacy of Jesus S. and Anthony A. Leon Guerrero and the challenge for Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, the officers and employees of the Bank of Guam. We are confident that the leadership and the employees of the Bank of Guam will continue to meet these challenges.

TRIBUTE TO NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my profound respect and admiration to all the members of the Negro Baseball League. These athletes contributed greatly to the sport of baseball and to

our nation. African American baseball players were an important part of breaking down barriers, reducing prejudice, and moving the country towards integration, fairness, and equality. And because of their talent and determination, Major League Baseball finally integrated in 1959, 40 years after the formation of the Negro Baseball League.

While the 4th District was never home to an official Negro baseball team designated by the Negro League, which began in 1920, it was home to the St. Paul Gophers. The team was formed in 1907, long before the official Negro League was created, and with the likes of Bobby Marshall, a stand-out at the University of Minnesota in three sports, they went on to win the unofficial championship in 1909 against the Chicago Leland Giants. Minnesota was also home to Minneapolis Keystones, an all-black men's team that also played in the early 1900's and, in 1944, the Minneapolis Millerettes, a member of All-American Girls Baseball League. Even though these teams played for only a short time, they remain an important part of the history of our state and a testament to the value of inclusion in our communities.

I am proud to support for H. Res. 162 and to recognize the enormous achievements by African American athletes throughout our Nation's history.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE NURSING PROFESSION

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I call attention to the important and essential role that nurses play in providing quality health care across our Nation. Nurses are the health professionals involved on the front lines of caring for Americans. Our Nation's health care system is complex and every day people with all types of needs are served by legions of caring, qualified and professional nurses. They are integral to our Nation's health care delivery system.

I believe every person can remember an experience when someone they loved needed health care and a nurse was the first person by their side providing care and comfort. We all know someone who works in the field of nursing and the commitment they make to their profession, despite extraordinary challenges everyday.

The Nurse in Washington Internship program has brought more than 100 representatives of this noble field to our Nation's Capitol this week to give voice to their needs and experience. They see more of our constituents and care for more of our children then we will ever meet and we should listen and respect their views.

An adequate supply of nurses is essential to ensuring that all people receive quality care and that our Nation's public health infrastructure has the professionals necessary to respond to natural and manmade disasters. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) projects that today's 10 percent vacancy rate in registered nurses will grow to 36 percent by 2020, representing more than one million unfilled jobs.

Additional Congressional leadership, ongoing support and federal funding is necessary to ensure that the nation has an adequate supply of nurses to care for the patients of today and tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present on the legislative days of March 12th and March 13th for rollcall votes 136 through 141.

If I were present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 136, "yea" on rollcall vote 137, "yea" on rollcall vote 138, "yea" on rollcall vote 139, "yea" on rollcall vote 140, and "yea" on rollcall vote 141.

IN HONOR OF PHILLIP CONNELLY

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Phillip Connelly for his service to thousands of professors and students as well as for his years in the Navy and in public service. Mr. Connelly is also an outstanding representative of the Irish-American community of the city of Bayonne.

Phillip Connelly is vice president of Administration and Finance at Kean University in Union, NJ. Mr. Connelly is responsible for multiple vital departments of the university that assist in the learning and welfare of 13,000 students and 12,000 employees.

Mr. Connelly spent most of his professional career as a dedicated public servant. For 7 years, Mr. Connelly was the business administrator of the city of Elizabeth, the fourth largest municipality in the State. His experience in public service was acquired early on as accountant for the city of Bayonne. Mr. Connelly was promoted to assistant and business administrator. During that time, Mr. Connelly was elected to the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders, where he served for 3 years.

Phillip Connelly traces his Irish heritage to County Fermanagh where both his mother and grandmother were born. Mr. Connelly is known as being dedicated and loyal. For his contributions to the Irish-American community he is being honored with the "Friends of Brian Boru 2007 Man of the Year Award."

Let us honor this accomplished native and resident of Bayonne, and join me in congratulating his wife Maryann and son Patrick for the distinction bestowed upon this outstanding New Jersey family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MICROBICIDE DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, today, on International Women's Day and as

we prepare to recognize National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on March 10th, I am proud to introduce the Microbicide Development Act. This legislation will advance and accelerate efforts to develop an effective microbicide product to protect against HIV infection. While the primary users of microbicides will be women, an effective microbicide would also make significant contributions to the reduction of HIV infections among men and among infants.

The Microbicide Development Act will bolster and coordinate microbicide research and development programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Specifically, this legislation would establish for the first time a clearly-defined branch dedicated to microbicide research and development at the NIH and require the development of a strategic plan to expedite research.

In the 25 years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, more than 25 million people have died from HIV/AIDS. Among persons aged 15 to 59, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death worldwide. With nearly 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide and more than 4 million new HIV infections in 2006 alone, HIV/AIDS continues to be a major global health problem, threatening the economic, social, and political stability of many nations.

Unfortunately, there is today no cure for HIV or AIDS and no magic bullet for prevention. In the global fight against HIV/AIDS, scientists have stressed the need for a comprehensive approach that includes care and treatment for individuals already infected as well as a range of prevention strategies to stop further spread of the disease. Microbicides represent a critical strategy within this comprehensive approach to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, particularly for women. With women accounting for nearly half (48 percent) of all HIV/AIDS cases across the globe and nearly 60 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases (76 percent of HIV/AIDS cases among 15–24 year olds) in sub-Saharan Africa, HIV prevention technologies meeting the special needs of women are increasingly important. In some areas of sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, infection rates among young women are up to six times higher than among young men. The devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on women is certainly not limited to third world nations. HIV/AIDS is also a major problem for women in the United States, as AIDS is the leading cause of death for African American women between the ages of 25 and 34 in the United States.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease of the NIH, has emphasized the role of gender inequality in fueling the HIV/AIDS epidemic among women and the need to empower women with strategies over which they have control. In a March statement recognizing National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, he stated:

"Globally, the vast majority of women with HIV/AIDS became infected through heterosexual intercourse, frequently in settings where saying no to sex or insisting on condom use is not an option because of cultural factors, lack of financial independence, and even the threat of violence. These issues compel us to develop HIV prevention tools that women can use in situations when negotiating with sexual partners is difficult or

impossible. One critical avenue of research is the development of safe, effective and acceptable topical microbicides—gels, creams and foams that could be used prior to sexual intercourse to prevent infection with HIV and other sexually transmitted pathogens. The development of these woman-controlled agents is a top HIV/AIDS research priority of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)."

Current prevention approaches are not practical for everyone, particularly women. The major route of transmission for HIV around the globe is heterosexual sex. Abstinence is often not an option for women. Around the globe, unmarried women are not always in the position to refuse sexual advances and may be the victims of violence. Married women are rarely in the position to be able to refuse sexual advances of their husbands, even if they know that their spouse is infected.

Many women who are infected with HIV or at risk for infection are monogamous and do not practice high risk behaviors. Frequently, they are married or in committed relationships in which they are placed at risk by the behavior of their male partner, which they have limited power to change.

Condoms represent the most effective prevention technology currently available. However, male condoms require male cooperation and even female condoms require the consent and cooperation of male partners, placing women's risk for HIV infection under the initiation and control of men. Women, particularly married women and those women in committed relationships, are often powerless to insist on or even request condom use by their male partner. Such requests can be interpreted as evidence of infidelity on the woman's part or accusations of infidelity on the man's part, either of which can result in serious penalties for women, including violence.

Topical microbicides represent a woman-initiated method of prevention that would not require cooperation from a male partner and may even permit conception. Microbicides are a class of products under development that could be applied topically to prevent the spread of HIV infection. Microbicides may eventually take the form of gels, creams, and films, and be used in cervical caps, pre-loaded diaphragms, or rings. These methods may be invisible to male partners, which would allow women to use these products with or without the knowledge of her partner. While the contraceptive effects of barrier methods such as condoms present an obstacle for women who want to or are expected to bear children, microbicides may be available in both contraceptive and non-contraceptive formulas. With the ability to discreetly protect themselves and the potential to continue to bear children unimpeded, microbicides address the reality of women's prevention needs.

Mathematical models predict that even a partially effective microbicide could prevent 2.5 million infections over 3 years and that gradual introduction of newer and better microbicides could ultimately save a generation of women. In addition, several prominent scientists anticipate that an effective microbicide will be available within the next 5 to 7 years. Significant advances have been made in the development of microbicides in recent years. By the end of 2006, there were 36 organizations involved in microbicide R&D, with 10 microbicide candidates currently in clinical development and over 30 in preclinical development. We cannot let this momentum slow; we

must continue to prioritize microbicide research and development since an effective microbicide is within our reach.

The Microbicide Development Act affirms our commitment to microbicide research and to the women whose lives will be saved by microbicides in the future. The global community supports microbicide research. Around the world, there is heightened attention to the urgency of meeting the unique prevention needs of women. For the past few years, G8 communiqués and UN declarations have listed microbicides high among key global health priorities requiring focus and support. Numerous governments and donors have provided funding for microbicide development, including Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, European Commission, World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Within our own Nation, the Microbicide Development Act has garnered the support of over 120 community groups, including the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the American Public Health Association, the Global Campaign for Microbicides, the Guttmacher Institute, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, the National Minority AIDS Council, and the National Women's Health Network.

On this day, International Women's Day, we need to take a firm stand to validate and affirm the rights of women across the globe. This legislation recognizes the feminization of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the important role that gender inequity plays in the increasing rates of infection among women. It addresses those gender inequities by recognizing the reality of women's lives and providing women with tools to protect themselves within the context of this reality. Microbicides represent a woman-initiated and woman-controlled method of prevention that will allow women to protect themselves from HIV even in settings where negotiation with male sexual partners is difficult or impossible. This legislation demonstrates that we, as a Nation, value women and it will take the necessary steps to protect their lives and their futures.

HONORING AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three outstanding citizens from the Town of Auburn, MA, a community I am both privileged and proud to represent in the U.S. Congress. Tonight the Auburn Democratic Town Committee will rightfully recognize Patricia Bukoski with its FDR Outstanding Public Service Award, and Charles and Joan Baker with its Democratic Lifetime Achievement Award at their annual Irish Night Dinner. I regret that rollcall votes prevent me from attending the event to personally congratulate them for their remarkable contributions to the greater Auburn community.

Pat Bukoski is synonymous with the Auburn Housing Authority having directed the agency for fully 28 years. During her tenure, the Au-

burn Housing Authority received more than \$4 million in Federal funding for the construction of the 60-unit Stoneville Heights Development. Pat also presided over the expansion of the Packachoag Village Development and courageously shepherded the Pheasant Court Family Housing Project to its completion. Her constant care and compassion for Auburn's elderly and less fortunate is renowned. A woman of extraordinary faith, Pat's legacy of public service is nothing short of inspiring and serves as a sterling example of what one person can accomplish on behalf of others.

Charlie and Joan Baker are among the most devoted democratic activists the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has ever produced. Their tireless efforts on behalf of dozens of democratic candidates for local, State and national office now span more than half a century. I have personally benefited from their wise counsel and steadfast support and will forever be grateful for their loyalty. Few couples can lay claim to having helped elect as many leaders as Charlie and Joan Baker. The only reward they have ever sought was the quiet pride and satisfaction of having supported good and decent people for public office. Charlie and Joan's political activism is rivaled only by their combined record of service to the Town of Auburn. Charlie's tenure as a town meeting member, selectmen and now Town Moderator is without equal. Joan also served as a town meeting member and together they are widely regarded by many as the "first couple" of Auburn.

Madam Speaker, Patricia Bukoski, Charlie Baker, and Joan Baker are richly deserving of the recognition bestowed upon them tonight by the Auburn Democratic Town Committee. The United States of America owes each of them a debt of gratitude for their service and I humbly offer the congratulations of the U.S. House of Representatives to them on this very special occasion.

CHINA'S "ANTI-SECESSION" LAW

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, it has been two years since the "legislature" of the People's Republic of China passed the so-called "anti-secession" law. The enactment of this law by China's rubber-stamp parliament represented a clear-cut, belligerent and dangerous step toward a military attack of a peaceful and democratic ally of the United States. Moreover, it underscored once again that the government in Beijing is not sincere about resolving its differences with Taiwan in a peaceful or rational manner.

America's position is clear: Any change in the status quo between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan must have the assent of the people of Taiwan. As such, resolving the differences between these two nations can only be achieved through honest and direct state-to-state negotiations without preconditions. They cannot be resolved by intimidation, indignant bluster or threats of military force from Beijing.

Unfortunately, in the two years since Beijing created this "legal framework" for starting a war with Taiwan, little has changed. China

continues to point some 900 ballistic missiles at Taiwan and continues to ramp up its military spending and its military activities—none of this indicates that China is pursuing a peaceful settlement with its neighbor across the strait.

Madam Speaker, the truth is that Taiwan and China are not united. They are not "one country" as the communists in Beijing are so fond of asserting. If they were there would be no talk of "unification." China must accept that it does not have jurisdiction over Taiwan, and abandon this kind of counter-productive saber rattling.

I hope that the family of free nations will join me in condemning the "anti-secession law" with a unified voice, making it clear to China that any resolution of cross-strait tensions must be peaceful and above all acceptable to the people of Taiwan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE HONORABLE WYATT BROWNLEE

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th birthday of a living legend from my Congressional District, Judge Wyatt C. Brownlee. Born in Hodges, S.C., one of 11 children born to James and Elizabeth Brownlee, Judge Brownlee is the last living sibling of the family which migrated to Cleveland in 1921. His life has been an example of the power of courageous determination and faith in God.

Judge Brownlee attended Cleveland Public Schools, but was forced to drop out of Kennard Junior High School to help support his family. Because of his desire for an education, he attended night school, part time, until he received his high school diploma. His quest for knowledge continued and he graduated from: "FDR" Junior College in 1936; Fenn College (Cleveland State University) in 1940; and Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1944.

During his distinguished legal career he served as an Ohio Assistant Attorney General; Cleveland City Prosecutor and acting City Law Director. In 1957 he was appointed Cleveland Municipal Court Referee, and in 1977 he was appointed Cleveland Municipal Court Judge, where he served until his 1981 retirement. Judge Brownlee continued private practice after retirement.

Judge Brownlee has been involved in his community and has been recognized in "Who's Who in the National Bar Association," "Who's Who in American Law," and he has been honored by Black Lawyers and Black Judges. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Prince Hall Masonic Organization, and is a lifetime member of the Cleveland Marshall Alumni Association.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States Congress and the citizens of the 11th Congressional District, Ohio, I extend Happy 100th birthday wishes to the Honorable Wyatt C. Brownlee. Thank you, for being friend, teacher, and role model for so many of us. Judge Brownlee made an indelible imprint on my life. As a young lawyer, he nurtured me. When I

became a judge, he mentored me. As a prosecutor, he counseled me. As a legislator, he influenced me. I count him among the people who kept the wind beneath my wings. I pray God will continue to bless him. We love you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present on Monday and Tuesday of this week and missed the following votes:

Rollcall No. 136, Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 85.

Rollcall No. 137, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 136.

Rollcall No. 138, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 89.

Rollcall No. 139, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 64.

Rollcall No. 140, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 228.

Rollcall No. 141, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 222.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of these motions.

TRIBUTE TO FERN HOLLAND

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize a true American hero, Fern Holland. Three years ago, Fern gave her life so that others might have a brighter future. One of my staffers was friends with Fern and wrote this tribute on the three year anniversary of her death:

On March 9, 2004, my friend, Fern Holland was killed—assassination-style—in Iraq. She, her colleague, and a translator were stopped at a checkpoint where they were shot by gunmen posing as Iraqi police. These gunmen riddled their car with AK-47 bullets and took her life.

Fern wasn't killed because she was a soldier. She was killed because she was someone cared about other people.

When Baghdad fell, Fern traveled to Iraq to work for USAID and then later served on the Coalition Provisional Authority as a women's rights specialist. It was this work that made her a target by extremists. You see, Fern worked tirelessly at setting up Iraqi women's centers around the country. These centers were places women could organize, learn political skills to participate in a democracy, and learn life skills. These centers were not welcome by many extremists for a variety of reasons, and Fern was an easy target because she was white and blonde and very outspoken in her quest for women's rights in Iraq.

While she was doing this work, even more important work came to the forefront. Fern, 33 from Oklahoma, was a lawyer by trade, and she helped draft the interim Iraqi constitution. It was Fern Holland who wrote the section of the constitution that got Iraqi women 25 percent of the seats in the national assembly.

On March 8, 2004, Iraqi leaders signed the interim constitution that included Fern's provision. Women in Iraq now had more than just a seat at the table, they had a say in Iraq's future. Fern was able to see her hard work come to fruition, but only for a day. Her work on behalf of people she did not know, and who did not know her, led to her death.

In February 2003, I met Fern. I was looking for a place on the Hill as a young staffer, and I wound up subleasing her room while she went to work on projects in Africa. She had worked previously in the Peace Corps in Africa and headed back to continue the work she had started when I took over her lease. Her work in Africa led to the establishment of a legal clinic for women who had been sexually exploited. At the time of her death in 2004, the clinic had handled 118 cases including rapes, sexual assaults, wife beatings, family abandonment and sexual exploitation.

From time to time, Fern would come back to the U.S. and would stop by the house to pick up her mail, chat about what she was doing, make sure her car was still working, and then would head back out into the world to battle for what she believed. Several months prior to her death we chatted and I took over her lease and paid for her desk and other items she had left in the room that I now use. From time to time, when I get a chance to slow down, I look around and think about Fern.

Today, three years later, I don't tear up as much as I once did, but the sadness is just as real, and my heart is just as heavy, as it was when I got the call about her death from my roommate Michael. Questions still flood my mind as to why such evil would happen to such a good person. . . . I often think in deep silence about the Iraq War and the sacrifices of Fern and those who serve there. . . . I wonder why God allowed Fern and my path to cross—if only for a brief time—yet thank Him at the same time that I got to meet her.

Fern's life has taught me many things. I have learned to love people more. It is really easy to get cynical about work and life on the Hill when things move at a snails pace, or when you see that people's main motives are something other than helping people. But when I catch myself in a poor attitude or in a cycle of cynicism, I think of Fern and her sacrifices and realize there is more work to be done to help others. Fern's life also taught me my time is not my own. I constantly try to keep in contact with friends/family—and would do anything in the world for them—and I try to reach out to people in need. I have learned that the most important things in this world are the small things people often overlook. I learned that people need other people and so I take the time to speak with someone longer than I would normally, or return calls or emails when I am tired or would rather not. I invest in people because it seems friendships and helping others is the only return that makes me happy. I think that is the secret of life that Fern learned and shared with others.

Today has just begun, yet my thoughts are constantly bouncing back to Fern and to a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. that I can't get out of my head: "A man who won't die for something is not fit to live." In one of Fern's last emails she wrote, "I love the work and if I die, know that I'm doing precisely what I want to be doing—working to organize and educate human rights activists and women's groups." In a day an age where people think

only of themselves, Fern was willing to die for something she believed in; people. And because of that, her life and work means something. . . . it means others can live in a better world.

We tend to throw around the word "hero" alot these days. But I have learned that they are not on the sports field or on the TV or on the movie screen. They are the people who sacrifice for others; who die for others if need be. Fern Holland will forever be one of my heroes. And I wrote this today so that others might know the work she did, and the life she led, because Fern deserves to be remembered.

IN MEMORY OF BOBBY HILDEBRAND

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Bobby Hildebrand of Camden, Arkansas, who passed away February 24, 2007.

Bobby Hildebrand and his family grocery store, Harvey's Grocery Store, were South Arkansas institutions. Bobby was a businessman, a landowner and the proud owner of Harvey's Grocery in Camden, one of Arkansas's legendary political landmarks. Bobby made Harvey's Grocery a famous gathering spot for Arkansas politicians, business leaders and residents of South Arkansas who had a love of good food, heated debate and friendship.

Bobby became known for his locally famous barbecue as much as his generous heart. Each time I drove through Camden, my car always wanted to veer to Harvey's Grocery where I knew I would find good food and great conversation with a man I truly looked up to and admired. I was privileged to have witnessed first hand the effect Bobby's big smile had on visitors of his store and friends who needed someone to listen. Above all else, I am blessed to have been able to call Bobby a dear friend.

Bobby talked endlessly about how politics could be a good and noble profession and how a career in public service could positively affect the lives of thousands. His love of politics helped inspire me and many others to seek elected office and for that, I am forever grateful.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Pat of Camden; his brother Harvey Hildebrand of Louisiana; and his sister Dorothy Herrington of Camden. Bobby Hildebrand will be greatly missed in Camden, Ouachita County and throughout the state of Arkansas, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

WALBERG SUPPORTS STATE, LOCAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Education and Labor Committee, this morning I attended a bi-cameral

hearing on the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act.

In listening to testimony from various individuals today, it was impressed upon me that all of us involved are seeking the same goal: the best possible educational opportunities for our children.

Today, at a time when our Nation lags behind other countries in math and science testing and the Federal government has a larger role in education than ever before, this Congress must find a way to give our schools greater flexibility, reduce the bureaucracy involved in education and ensure these opportunities really are being given to our children.

In years past, Congress has attempted to solve problems in education by simply throwing piles of federal money into the education system.

The original purpose of No Child Left Behind was to return some education policy-making authority to the states.

Unfortunately, during the process of crafting, passing and enacting the legislation, No Child Left Behind took the form of a massive spending bill that increased the Federal government's presence in classrooms.

As the Detroit News stated in a December 22, 2006 editorial, "What our federal legislators come up with in the Nation's capital doesn't always translate well into the classroom."

The editorial continues, "Michigan should have the flexibility to decide how and when to measure student progress."

My daughter-in-law is a hard-working and talented teacher who has experienced firsthand the problems No Child Left Behind creates for teachers, parents and students.

As a classroom teacher forced to teach to the tests required by No Child Left Behind, she actually considered quitting because of the paperwork and restrictions imposed upon her. She struggled to have time to give individual attention to each of her "special needs" students.

Ironically, she obtained her teaching position due to her performance the year prior as a "permanent" substitute teacher in a classroom. Because she was not required to fill out all the forms and paperwork required by No Child Left Behind, she excelled, and the school offered her a permanent position.

In its origin, No Child Left Behind attempted to provide greater school choice and reduce Washington's involvement in education, but instead this expensive and largely unsuccessful legislation has broadened the scope of the Federal Government's role in education.

Enshrined in our Constitution is the 10th Amendment, which reads, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved for the States respectively, or to the people."

Federal control of education is listed nowhere in the Constitution, and in accordance with the 10th Amendment, education should be the responsibility of State and local governments.

Because I believe each child's educational path should be determined by a child's parents, and not by the Federal Government, I am an original co-sponsor of the A-PLUS Act.

The A-PLUS Act would give States, teachers and parents the freedom and authority to determine what educational path a student should take.

As part of this legislation, States can opt out of Federal programs and State leaders decide how to use Federal education funds to improve student achievement.

We all are seeking the best possible educational opportunities for our children, and the way to achieve this is let States and local communities be accountable for academic achievement and educational reforms.

HONORING REX HANSON

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rex Hanson, an exemplary citizen from my district who was recently named recipient of the LaRue County School's 2007 Excellence in Classroom and Educational Leadership, ExCEL Award.

A math teacher at LaRue County High School in Hodgenville, KY, Mr. Hanson has worked to give his students the strong math and science skills needed in today's high tech world. Through his position as the Mathematics Department chairman, he has worked hard to strengthen the math curriculum in LaRue County, spearheading a program that allows high school students to receive college credit through Campbellsville University. This program continues to allow students in LaRue County to get ahead as they make the transition from high school to college.

Mr. Hanson's teaching philosophy is to challenge his students to become the best that they can be in whatever career path they choose once they leave high school. This philosophy has greatly served LaRue County and Kentucky's Second District.

President Bush has placed a strong focus on math and sciences as the country moves into a global economy. I believe Mr. Hanson is a fitting example of this charge. In addition to his position as the Math Department chair, Mr. Hanson is an advisor for the National Honor Society, senior class sponsor, ACT school coordinator, and teaches classes for Elizabethtown Community College.

I applaud Mr. Hanson for his accomplishments in public education, a profession of great responsibility and even greater reward. On behalf of many others in the Hodgenville area, I would like to express my profound appreciation of his service.

It is my great privilege to recognize Rex Hanson today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his special achievement. His unique dedication to the development of young people and the communities they will someday serve makes him an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and respect.

A TRIBUTE TO MAYFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL AND MAYFIELD SENIOR SCHOOL

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Mayfield Junior

School and Mayfield Senior School as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary of Holy Child education in Pasadena, California.

In 1931, the Mayfield School was founded by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus. Under the philosophy and tradition of Cornelia Connelly, the Mayfield Schools are committed to educating the whole child, by providing a learning environment balancing academic excellence with the arts, athletics, community service, and spiritual growth.

The Mayfield Schools embrace seven goals developed by the Society of Holy Child Jesus founder Cornelia Connelly. These goals seek to provide an intellectually challenging and creative program of study that fosters academic excellence and to create a learning environment based on trust and reverence for the dignity and uniqueness of each person.

The Mayfield Schools have long been committed to community involvement and voluntary service. Upholding their motto of Actions not Words, both students and alumni have dedicated themselves to community enrichment and demonstrated the principals of compassion, integrity and leadership—characteristic of a Mayfield education.

Under the guidance of devoted teachers and faculty, the students of the Mayfield Schools have achieved great success. Over the past 75 years, more than 2,000 young men and women have graduated from Mayfield Junior School and more than 2,800 women from Mayfield Senior School.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring the Mayfield Junior School and Mayfield Senior School upon the celebration of their 75th Anniversary. The entire community joins me in thanking the Mayfield Schools for their outstanding educational opportunities for the youth of California's 29th District.

HONORING BILL AND MURIEL ELLIOTT AND DREW KATZ

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Muriel Elliott for their hard work in creating the John R. Elliott HERO Campaign, which promotes the use of designated drivers. The HERO Campaign, named after their late son, Navy Ensign John Elliott of Egg Harbor Township, NJ, began in 2000 when he was killed by a drunk driver.

I also rise to honor Mr. Drew Katz of the Interstate Outdoor Advertising Company of Cherry Hill, NJ. Mr. Katz graciously offered assistance to the Elliott family by providing billboard space to promote the HERO campaign. Partnered together, the Elliott family and Mr. Katz are helping to make the roads a safer place for all New Jerseyans. The Elliott family's commitment to their son and to this cause is truly inspirational. I also thank Mr. Katz for his generosity and commitment to his community.

The Elliott family and Mr. Katz's commitment to the John R. Elliott HERO Campaign has served New Jersey well, and I hope that they continue their vital efforts. I thank the Elliott family and Mr. Katz and wish them success with the HERO Campaign in the future.

HONORING REVEREND THOMAS
LOGAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
NINETY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House to a great Philadelphian on the occasion of his 95th birthday, March 19, 2007. The Reverend Canon Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan, Sr., a 1935 Lincoln University graduate, is Rector Emeritus of the Calvary Church in North Philadelphia. In 1938, Father Logan began his now 60-year tenure of service to the diocese of Pennsylvania with his ordination as a deacon. One year later, he was ordained a priest at St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia. During his long and distinguished career, Father Logan served in numerous parishes including: St. Philips Church in New York City, St. Augustine's Chapel in Yonkers, St. Michael and All Angels and the Calvary Church both located in Philadelphia.

Father Logan's service to the children of God has extended beyond the church walls. He has been a member of numerous religious, fraternal, social and civic organizations including the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the Restitution Fund Commission, the homeless fund, the Philadelphia Police Department, the National Conference of Black Episcopalians and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. As a delegate to the Anglican Conference in Cape Town, Father Logan brought his spirit, energy and steadfast commitment to social justice across the Atlantic ocean.

Father Logan is committed not only to his church but also to his lovely wife, Mrs. Hermione Hill Logan who on March 16 will achieve the modest age of 96. Father and Mrs. Logan have been happily married since 1938. It is my great pleasure to offer congratulations to Father Logan on his birthday. I wish him years of health and happiness and appreciate his decades of service.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW YORK
BLOOD CENTER AND THE IMPOR-
TANCE OF GIVING BLOOD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the work done by the New York Blood Center (NYBC) and its efforts to recruit volunteer blood donors to help assure a safe and ample blood supply in the New York Metropolitan area. As one of the nation's largest non-profit, community based blood centers, The New York Blood Center has provided critical blood, transfusion products and services to patients in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut hospitals for over 40 years.

Established in 1964 in order to better serve the transfusion needs of the New York City community, New York Blood Center was founded in order to carry out a critical mission to provide community members with the highest quality transfusion products and services,

as well as leading-edge research and technological and medical care innovation.

The New York metropolitan area is currently experiencing a blood shortage that has reached an emergency level. The New York Blood Center reports a shortage of all types of blood, but most pressing a need for "O" type blood, the universal donor to patients of all blood types. Hospitals in New York need an average of 2,000 volunteer donors every day to meet critical patient needs. NYBC collects an average of 1500–1700 units/day to help meet these needs in combination with other providers.

When the number of donations falls below the necessary number, NYBC must import the balance of necessary units from other areas of the United States. Without these vital donations, blood must be rationed to local area hospitals and elective surgeries postponed until blood supply levels improve. While the current shortage has not yet caused rationing to occur, it has become an area-wide crisis that endangers the lives and well-being of New Yorkers and demands the community's immediate attention.

To date, NYBC has avoided this critical problem through continuous partnership with local and national government officials to perform constituent outreach. NYBC also collaborates with businesses and organizations that sponsor blood drives, as well as with individuals who donate on a consistent basis. In recent years, while the number of donations in the New York metropolitan area have remained steady, there has been a downward trend in the number of donations in Manhattan, contributing to the causes of the current shortage.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH
BIRTHDAY OF LILLIAN VERNON

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 80th birthday of Lillian Vernon. Born Lilly Menasche in Leipzig, her family fled the perils of World War II and Hitler's Nazi regime in 1933, fleeing to Amsterdam, Holland then finally to the United States, settling in New York City in 1937. There she attended New York University for 2 years before getting married.

In 1951, while 4 months pregnant, Lillian began her mail order business with a \$495.00 sixth-of-a-page ad for a personalized handbag and belt in Seventeen magazine. What started as a simple business run out of her kitchen in Mount Vernon, New York, turned into a leading catalog and online retailer, with its corporate headquarters in Rye, New York. In 1987, Lillian's business became the first woman founded and owned business to go public on the American Stock Exchange.

In addition to Lillian's accomplishments in business, she believes strongly in giving back to her community. Her company has donated funds and merchandise to more than 5,000 charities, religious, and civic organizations. She serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations, including the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Virginia Opera and The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

She has spoken at many universities and has received several honors, including induction in the Direct Marketing Hall of Fame, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Big Brother/Big Sisters National Hero Award and the Gannett Newspapers Business Leadership Award.

At 80 years of age, Lillian continues to strive to be on the cutting edge of fashion accessories, exploring new and even more creative ideas. She is the proud mother of two sons, Dean Fred P. Hochberg, of the New School and David Hochberg, a private consultant. Especially committed to encouraging the careers of women, she has been a constant supporter and friend. Therefore, it is my pleasure to wish her many blessings on her birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I was unable to record rollcall vote No. 139. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 64.

HONORING DR. ELSON FLOYD

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Elson Floyd, President of the four-campus University of Missouri System. He was selected to run the system November 11, 2002. He is leaving to become the tenth President of Washington State University on June 1, 2007.

During his tenure as President of the System, he has brought about many innovative strategies which have benefited the Universities. He developed a System-wide Strategic Plan with measurable performance objectives. He established a system-wide fundraising goal of one billion dollars, of which 900 million dollars in documented gifts have been received to date toward this goal. Total enrollment increased 7,000 since his hiring to a record high of more than 63,000 students. Minority student enrollment has increased on all four campuses. He has leveraged private support to generate 266 need-based scholarships to enhance student access.

Although there have been lean budget years in the University system, Dr. Floyd has effectively managed them by implementing a plan to reduce System-wide administrative expenditures by 20 million dollars, far exceeding the 10 percent goal of 12.4 million dollars, reinvesting resources of this initiative into scholarships and financial aid, student services and faculty recruitment. He also developed a tuition guideline that holds tuition increases to the rate of inflation, provided that state support also keeps pace with inflation. This allows students and families a certain degree of predictability of college costs.

Dr. Floyd is the 2004 recipient of the James C. Kirkpatrick Award for public service given by the Northwest Missouri Press Association. He is also the 2004 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2006, students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis established a scholarship in his name, the "President Elson S. Floyd Endowed Scholarship."

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Elson Floyd for his leadership as President of the University of Missouri System. I urge my colleagues to please join me in conveying our gratitude to Dr. Floyd for his contributions to Missouri, and to wish him well in his new endeavor.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAVINGS
FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT OF
2007

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 1514, the Savings for Working Families Act of 2007. I have worked with my colleague Congressman JOE PITTS of Pennsylvania and other Members from both sides of the aisle in both the House and Senate to introduce savings legislation that will help America's working families by ex-

panding the successful Individual Development Account program (IDA).

H.R. 1514 provides a tax credit to financial institutions that match the savings of low-income families through Individual Development Accounts. Individual savings in IDAs are matched on a one-to-one basis, up to \$500 per person per year, although personal contributions into an IDA are not limited.

Thousands of working families across the country currently take advantage of IDA matched savings and asset accumulation. IDA programs are run by community-based organizations in partnership with a qualified financial institution that holds the deposits. IDA funds can be used for college and post-secondary education, purchasing a home, or starting a small business. Those who save in IDAs also receive financial planning education. Nationally, 50,000 Americans are presently enrolled in 500 IDA programs. In the State of Ohio, nearly 5,000 savers benefit from fifteen IDA programs.

I want to praise the 16 financial institutions that run the fifteen IDA programs in Ohio and assist low-income families build assets: Citizen's Federal Savings & Loan, Faith Community United Credit Union, Farmers National Bank, First Federal Bank, First Federal Savings of Newark, Perpetual Bank, First National Community Bank, Home Savings and Loan, Huntington National Bank, Key Bank, Midwest

Family Credit Union, Park National Bank, Fiberglas Federal Credit Union, Peoples Bank, Ohio Savings Bank, Sky Bank, and the World Financial Network National Bank.

Too many families in too many cities across this country live under constant threat of financial ruin due to a lack of savings. Individual Development Accounts allow working families to develop their own assets and establish sound financial footing, creating a fund that would make possible a down payment on a home or seed capital to start a business. We should not delay in expanding the existing IDA program. We have in our power the ability to help working families achieve the American Dream.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Erika Lunder, a Legislative Attorney at the Congressional Research Service, for providing my staff and me with valuable information and advice on this legislation. Throughout the years, particularly during my service on the Ways and Means Committee, she has consistently provided me with excellent research and counsel in a timely, impartial manner on several pieces of tax and pension legislation. Erika's service is not only greatly appreciated by me, but also my constituents in the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio and the entire State of Ohio.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 16

10 a.m.

Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for the fiscal year 2008 for the Government Accountability Office, Government Printing Office, Congressional Budget Office, and the Office of Compliance.

SD-138

MARCH 19

1 p.m.

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the National Institutes of Health.

SH-216

MARCH 20

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
To receive testimony on the the United States Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years Defense Program.

SR-325

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Stephen Jeffrey Isakowitz, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Energy.

SD-366

Finance

To receive testimony on identifying needs, partnerships, and resources relating to a competitive education.

SD-215

Appropriations

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine economic and safety concerns relating to promoting travel to America (Part II).

SR-253

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine combating war profiteering, focusing on investigating and prosecuting contracting fraud and abuse in Iraq.

SD-226

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Retirement and Aging Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of Alzheimer's disease research 100 years later.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 126, to modify the boundary of Mesa Verde National Park, S. 257, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area in the States of Washington and Oregon, S. 289, to establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, S. 443, to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, S. 444, to establish the South Park National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, S. 500, to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of the National Museum of the American Latino to develop a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, DC, H.R. 512, to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of the National Museum of the American Latino to develop a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, DC, S. 637, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor in Alabama and Georgia, S. 817, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide additional authorizations for certain National heritage Areas, and for other proposes; and S. Con. Res. 6, expressing the sense of Congress that the National Museum of Wildlife Art, located in Jackson, Wyoming, should be designated as the "National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States".

SD-366

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine Medicare doctors who cheat on their taxes and efforts to address the problem.

SD-342

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine energy innovation.

SR-253

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

MARCH 21

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the performance of the United States trade and food aid programs for the 2007 Farm Bill.

SR-328A

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine an overview of the Government Accountability Office Assistance to Congressional Oversight, focusing on past work and future challenges and opportunities.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine assessing the effectiveness of the current United States sanctions on Iran relating to minimizing potential threats from Iran.

SD-538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine a review of treatment, diagnosis, and monitoring efforts, focusing on the long-term health impacts from September 11.

SH-216

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Inspector General's findings of the improper use of the National Security Letters by the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to the misuse of the Patriot Act powers.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Consumer Affairs, Insurance, and Automotive Safety Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

SR-253

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the United States Air Force.

SD-192

2:30 p.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine Vice President Al Gore's perspective on global warming.

SD-106

Judiciary

Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine recent developments involving the security of sensitive consumer information relating to identity theft and solutions for an evolving problem.

SD-226

MARCH 22

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) modernization.

SR-253

9:45 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian housing.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine deconstructing reconstruction, focusing on problems, challenges, and the way forward in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the "Future of Coal" report recently published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

SD-366

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

MARCH 26

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To receive a briefing on the reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for policy.

SR-232A

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the progress of the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme and to receive information on lessons learned for policymakers who want to better understand how a market-based trading program could operate efficiently and effectively in the United States.

SD-G50

3 p.m.

Judiciary

Human Rights and the Law Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the problem of human trafficking and the legal options to stop the problem.

SD-226

MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SD-106

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense cooperation and collaboration, focusing on health care issues.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine competition and consumer choice relating to exclusive sports programming.

SR-253

MARCH 28

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the future of the Coast Guard Dive Program.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine transitioning to a next generation Human Space Flight System.

SR-253

MARCH 29

9:15 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian trust fund litigation.

SR-485

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of AMVETS, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Gold Star Wives of America, Fleet Reserve Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, Military Officers Association of America, and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

SD-106

APRIL 10

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

SR-253

APRIL 11

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine issues relative to Filipino veterans.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the availability and affordability of property and casualty insurance in the Gulf Coast and other coastal regions.

SD-538

APRIL 25

2 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs, focusing on mental health issues.

SR-418